

Saltwater Fishing Regulation Updates

A federal rule to the Fishery Management Plan for the snapper-grouper fishery was published and is in effect starting October 23, 2006. The approved regulatory actions are intended to reduce harvests and end overfishing of the snapper-grouper fishery. The new regulations passed by Amendment 13C will affect snowy grouper, golden tilefish, vermillion snapper, red porgy, and black sea bass. Detailed changes for the recreational fisheries for each species in federal waters are listed below.

Snowy Grouper

- Recreational bag limit of one per person per day within the 5-grouper per person per day aggregate recreational bag limit.

Golden Tilefish

- Recreational bag limit of one per person per day within the 5-grouper per person per day aggregate recreational bag limit.

Vermillion Snapper

- Recreational minimum size limit increased from 11 inches total length to 12 inches total length.

Red Porgy

- Recreational bag limit increased from 1 to 3 red porgy per person per day.

Black Seabass

- Recreational bag limit reduced from 20 to 15 fish per person per day.
- Recreational size limit changes from 10 inches total length to 11 inches total length on Oct. 23, 2006.
- Recreational size limit changes from 11 inches total length to 12 inches total length on June 1, 2007.

For more information about Amendment 13C, visit the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council website at <http://www.safmc.net/>.